



Mothers Against Drunk Driving
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The Honorable Kurt Heise
Chairman, House Criminal Justice Committee

Dear Chairman Heise,

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) urges you to support and advance HB 5742 by Representative Sarah Roberts, which eliminates the October 1, 2018, sunset provision of Michigan's .08 law. This lifesaving legislation is scheduled for a House Criminal Justice Committee hearing on September 13.

In September 2003, .08 blood alcohol concentration (BAC) became the illegal threshold for driving drunk in Michigan. As a result of Michigan's .08 law, in addition to the efforts of law enforcement and an increasing use of ignition interlocks for convicted drunk drivers, drunk driving deaths have dropped by 21 percent. All states have had a .08 law in place since 2005, which has contributed to a significant decline in drunk driving deaths across the United States.

Attempting to drive with a .08 BAC is dangerous and deadly. When drivers reach .08 BAC, their critical driving skills, such as judging distance and speed, steering, visual tracking, concentration, braking and staying in driving lanes, are severely impaired (Moskowitz, 2000). In addition, a person who is at a .08 BAC is 11 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than someone who has had nothing to drink (Zador, 2000) (Keall et al, 2004).

MADD is not against people age 21 and over consuming alcohol. Michigan's .08 law does not stop people from drinking alcohol, it helps stop drunk driving. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism notes that to reach a .08 BAC, men must typically consume five or more drinks, and women must typically consume four or more drinks, in about two hours. This dispels the myth that someone can be arrested for drunk driving at .08 BAC after one beer at a ball game or a glass of champagne at a wedding.

MADD encourages you to support and advance HB 5742. MADD believes Michigan's 21 percent reduction in drunk driving deaths is due in part to the .08 law. Enclosed is more information on .08. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Colleen Sheehey-Church
MADD National President

Cc: Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee



Since .08 was implemented in Michigan in 2003, there has been a 21 percent reduction in drunk driving deaths. *Source: NHTSA*



Blood alcohol concentration is a measure of how much alcohol is in someone's blood. It is the most accurate and measurable gauge of alcohol impairment.

12 oz.
5% alcohol

5 oz.
12% alcohol

1.5 oz.
40% alcohol

.08 BAC

- Trouble controlling speed
- Difficulty processing information and reasoning
- Reduced coordination and ability to track moving objects
- Difficulty steering
- 11 times more likely to cause a crash compared to a sober driver

TO GET TO THE ILLEGAL .08 BAC LEVEL, A 160-POUND MALE MUST DRINK FOUR DRINKS IN AN HOUR.